



#FLAG2021: DESIGN A COOK COUNTY FLAG FOR THE 21st CENTURY

- Cook County Government will celebrate 190 years in January 2021. We want all County residents currently attending high school (grades 9–12) to help design the new County flag, or #FLAG2021.
- The winning design will be the official banner of Cook County Government, flown in all County operated locations and raised above Daley Plaza next January in a ceremony marking the introduction of #FLAG2021.
- Submit your design online at cookcountyil.gov/flag2021, email your design to flag2021@cookcountyil.gov, or mail the entry form (or any physical flag!) to 118 N Clark St, Room 436, Chicago, IL 60602.

THE CHALLENGE: GEOGRAPHY, MISSION, HISTORY AND PEOPLE OF COOK COUNTY

GEOGRAPHY: Consider any or all of the following—the Forest Preserve, Lake Michigan, the rivers which run throughout the County and feed the lake. There are six main geographic regions of the County—the City of Chicago is the County seat (capital) and the five suburban regions (North, Northwest, West, Southwest, South).

MISSION AND HISTORY: Cook County has played a large role in the development of the modern United States, providing **HEALTH CARE**, regardless of ability to pay; **TRANSPORTATION AND ROADWAYS**, including the major local expressways and work at the airports; comprehensive provision of the **JUSTICE** System; a commitment to the Preservation of the **ENVIRONMENT** and Forest Preserves; and as a Center of **COMMERCE** for the nation.

PEOPLE: Cook County is home to people who come from all over the nation and the world, with many different groups of residents coming together to make one county of over 5.2 million people.

DOs and DON'Ts

DO give your flag a name—provide a title which speaks to the geography, mission and people.

DO describe what your flag's colors, symbols, shapes and patterns represent (an example: a star on your design has a number of points, share what each point means). Every meaning should be explained.

DO submit your flag by November 1, 2020.

DON'T use any text, lettering, or numbering—the colors, symbols, and patterns should represent the flag's meaning.

DON'T use the Cook County seal, map, or existing flag.

DON'T use too many colors—a maximum of four is suggested but a flag with more will still be considered.

DON'T include small, detailed or hard to see design elements – from 100 yards away, a 3' x 5' flag appears smaller than your hand – the new Cook County flag will be reproduced in many small versions, including mini flags, logos, pins, etc.



COOK COUNTY #FLAG2021 DESIGN CONTEST TIMELINE

2019

December Resolution establishing #FLAG2021 Advisory Panel introduced

2020

January Letters sent to schools introducing the contest, the rules and the timelines, promotion via social media, traditional media outlets

January–November 1 Contestants prepare entries

November 1 Deadline to submit entries

Fall 2020 Advisory Panel evaluates and selects semi-finalists

Semi-finalists honored at Cook County Board Meeting

Semi-finalists will be paired with volunteer design professionals who will work closely with the semi-finalists to refine their designs

2021

January 15 Refined designs of 25 semi-finalists unveiled on 190th anniversary of Cook County's founding

Winter 2021 (TBD) Advisory Panel selects five finalists for final consideration by the Cook County Board of Commissioners

Cook County Board is sent five finalists to select new County Flag

Board deliberates on flag designs

The new County Flag goes into production: Daley Plaza flag, building flags, 3x5s, small flags, flag pins, uniform patches

Spring 2021 (TBD) The new County Flag is introduced, Flag Raising Ceremony in Daley Plaza, flags replaced outside at County facilities, Flag Exchange Ceremony with municipalities in Daley Plaza

TBD Indoor office flags, uniforms with flags replaced at discretion of officeholders over time